

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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R 091515Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7435

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 5978

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ELEC, LI, US

SUBJ: OMEGA STATION DEDICATION

REF: STATE 236802

1. DEPARTMENT CORRECT IN NOTING THAT STATION MAY NOT BE FULLY OPERATIONAL BY DECEMBER 10, HOWEVER CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITIES AND THE INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT WILL BE COMPLETED BY THAT DATE. EMBASSY FEELS IT NOT NECESSARY FOR STATION TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL PRIOR TO DEDICATION.

2. BASED ON INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOL OFFICIALS RE MOST APPROPRIATE DEDICATION DATE, EMBASSY SELECTED ABOVE DATE AND CHARGE SENT LETTER OF INVITATION TO PRESIDENT ON SEPTEMBER 30, GIVING DECEMBER 10 AS CEREMONY DATE. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE RECEIVED NO RPT NO RESPONSE AS YET, EMBASSY FEELS CHANGE OF DATE MIGHT PROVE EMBARRASSING IN EVENT PRESIDENT ACCEPTS.

3. FOLLOWING FACTORS WERE CONSIDERED IN CHOOSING DATE:

A. MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINES FELT JANUARY DATE (FIRST SUGGESTED) WOULD CONFLICT WITH INAUGURATION. HE SUGGESTED EARLY DECEMBER SO THAT IT WOULD ALSO NOT CONFLICT WITH CHRISTMAS EVENTS;

B. EMBASSY AGREED THAT OMEGA PROJECT OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE
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THAT ITS DEDICATION SHOULD NOT BE OVERSHADOWED BY OTHER

EVENTS. THIS POSITIVE EXAMPLE OF USG/GOL COOPERATION AND HAS INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AS WELL.

C. PRIMARY AGENCIES IN GOL THAT HAVE WORKED WITH THE OMEGA PROJECT ARE LANDS AND MINES, WHICH COORDINATED THE CONSTRUCTION AND PROVIDED THE LAND FOR THE STATION, AND COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION, WHICH IS THE COORDINATOR FOR THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE STATION. IN ACCORDANCE WITH CUSTOMARY PROCEDURES, ALL CABINET MEMBERS OF GOL WILL SUBMIT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION PRIOR TO THE INAUGURATION AND THE NEW CABINET IS ANNOUNCED AT SOME LATER DATE. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN THE CABINET. IF THE OMEGA DEDICATION WERE SCHEDULED AFTER THE INAUGURATION, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS WHO HAVE WORKED MOST CLOSELY WITH OMEGA TO DATE MAY NO LONGER HOLD THE SAME POSITIONS IN THE NEW CABINET AND THEREFORE NOT IN A POSITION TO TAKE PART IN THE DEDICATION.

4. ALTHOUGH DECEMBER 10 DATE STILL TENTATIVE PENDING RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT AND SCHEDULING OF USG DELEGATION, EMBASSY STRONGLY URGES CONSIDERATION OF DATE IN THIS TIME FRAME. PURPOSE OF DEDICATION CEREMONY IS TO HIGHLIGHT LIBERIAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION. WE EXPECT GALA FESTIVITIES AT INAUGURATION TIME, AND DEDICATION WOULD BE COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWED. WE ALSO DOUBT IF PRESIDENT COULD BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND AT THAT TIME. WE FEEL BOTH INAUGURATION AND OMEGA DEDICATION WARRANT HIGH LEVEL USG PARTICIPATION IN THEIR OWN RIGHTS.

5. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
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